

SGT Annette B. Andrews



but crews must also be able to remain vigilant in a hostile environment for long periods to defend both themselves and the units they support.

"We belong on the front lines. It's what we train for," Gasca said. — 1LT Jaime R. Brown, 69th ADA Bde.

## Fort Belvoir, Va.

### Ohio Unit Provides VIP Protection

ONE of only two Army Reserve detachments that assist the Protective Service Unit, here, the Columbus, Ohio-based 375th Military Police Detachment is often called upon to protect important government officials, including the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and the secretary of defense.

SSG Connie Murray, who joined the unit after a six-year active-duty tour with the Criminal Investigations Division, said the reputation of the 375th drew her to the Reserve unit.

"I asked to get into this unit after I heard about it on active duty," said Murray.

In the past four years she has been assigned to protec-

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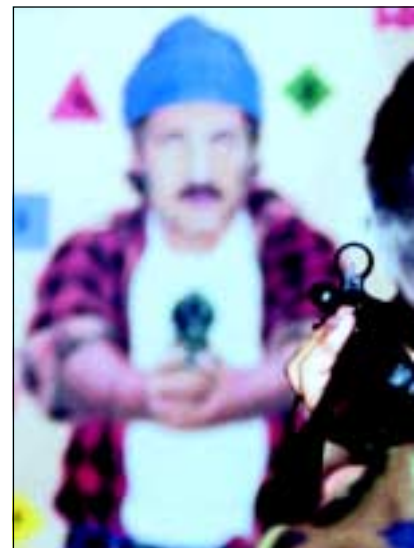
(Above) Members of 5th Bn., 7th ADA, pose for a team picture outside a favorite restaurant. (Left) During the competition, live missiles target an aerial drone.

son teams that must deploy and be self-sufficient for several days. They often accompany infantry, carrying the standard infantry load plus their Stinger missiles. To be proficient, crews must be able to identify and defeat 200 types of aircraft.

Although the Stinger is a short-range weapon, the 5th Bn. is assigned to a Patriot unit, which typically deploys separately and uses long-range radar and missiles to execute its mission. The Stinger crews defend Patriot batteries against low-flying aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles.

Gasca said that accuracy with the Stinger requires quick reaction and physical stamina,

**CW5 Michael Turner, 375th MP Det. operations officer, fires an MP5 submachine gun during weapons qualification. The 375th assists Fort Belvoir's Protective Service Unit.**



## Hanau, Germany

### Stinger Crew Named "Top Gun"

STINGER crewmembers from 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, here, excelled at this year's Stinger Live Fire Competition in Putlos, Germany. SGT Raul Gasca and gunner PFC Aldo Guzman earned the "Top Gun" prize, marking them as the best crew among 14 teams that competed, and helped the unit to win "best battalion" honors.

Platoon sergeant SSG Troy

Davis credited the battalion's performance to months of intense training and a tough PT program that gave soldiers a physical and mental edge.

Competitors had to identify friendly and enemy aircraft; perform crew drills in less than 10 seconds; answer general knowledge questions; complete a 4-mile march with full equipment and Stinger weapon; negotiate NBC and obstacle courses; pass a PT test and complete a "mystery event," which this year was a land-navigation problem.

Stinger crews are two-per-

tive elements in such places as Russia, Romania and Portugal.

"Last year this unit did 300 man-days," said unit operations officer CW5 Michael Turner. "Somebody here has hit every major country in the world."

With that much time dedicated to real-world missions, serving in the 375th requires a firm commitment from the Reservist and from employers. A majority of the soldiers in the unit are city police officers who enjoy a good working relationship with the Columbus Police Department, Turner said.

CPT James Wilson, PSU commander, said that of all the protective responsibilities, the four areas that agents guard against are assassination, kidnapping, injury and embarrassment.

While discretion is a part of the job, safeguarding the official is the PSU's primary role. Protective duties vary from checking escape routes to the airport, to checking the food the principal will consume during a trip. Murray said agents must be alert to any threat and respond appropriately.

That's not always easy to



SSG Michael Rautio (all)



do. And because of that, the unit is regularly evaluated and put through exercises designed to hone the skills needed to keep VIPs safe.

"Reservists are essential to what we do," Wilson said. "We couldn't do it without them." — SSG David Bennett, 367th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

#### Fort Chaffee, Ark.

### 45th Inf. Bde. Prepares for JRTC

FOR active-Army soldiers, training is part of their routine, conducted throughout the year. But for soldiers of the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade, training often must be fit into short periods on weekends and on annual drills.

This summer the 45th Inf. completed the first two-week

annual training exercise conducted by any of the three enhanced separate brigades that make up the 7th Inf. Division, which was activated at Fort Carson, Colo., in June 1999.

The 7th Inf. Div. and the 24th Inf. Div., at Fort Riley, Kan., are the first divisions that combine both active-duty and reserve-component soldiers in one military headquarters.

The focus of this year's exercise was to prepare for a 2002 rotation through the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., said brigade commander BG Jerry W. Grizzle. The brigade's last JRTC rotation was in 1992.

The training was evaluated by cadre from the 75th Training Support Div., which supports three National Guard brigades in seven states. The cadres were assigned to units down to

**The 45th Inf. Bde.'s training at Fort Chaffee was intended to help the unit prepare for a 2002 rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center.**

platoon level, to observe and control events and provide after-action reviews.

"We're doing a lot of things for the first time and doing a lot of on-the-job training," said SGT John Ford. "This is the first time we've fielded certain equipment and the first time some teams have worked together in a battlefield environment. So we're still learning a lot."

The 45th Inf. Bde. will conduct another two-week training rotation at Fort Chaffee next year, applying lessons learned from this year's exercise and putting the final touches on preparing for JRTC, when the harder test comes. — SPC Bryan Beach, 14th PAD

